

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising a plurality of instant messaging client applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ communicating via a computer network ~~(206)~~ to send and receive messages in real time integrated with n-way teleconferencing capability via a telephone network ~~(216)~~.
2. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system comprises: a plurality of instant messaging client applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~; an instant messaging server ~~(204)~~; and a teleconferencing server ~~(210)~~; all connected via a computer network ~~(206)~~; wherein the teleconferencing server ~~(210)~~ enables n-way telephone connections via the telephone network ~~(216)~~.
3. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the teleconference server ~~(210)~~ includes communication means to send notifications to the instant messaging server ~~(204)~~ of the status of telephone connections during a teleconference.

4. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed ~~any one of claims~~
~~1 to 3 in claim 1~~, wherein the instant messaging client
applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ have graphical user
interfaces ~~(400, 600)~~ including means for displaying in real
time details of participants of an n-way teleconference and
the status of the telephone connections of the participants.

5. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the n-way telephone
connections are to telephone apparatus of users of the
instant messaging client applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 5,
wherein an additional telephone connection is to a telephone
apparatus of a user ~~(611, 615)~~ who is not a user of an
instant messaging client application.

7. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface
~~(600)~~ includes means for indicating a participant who is
talking ~~(608)~~ at a given time in the teleconference, the

means for indicating being activated in response to notification from the teleconference server {210}.

8. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 4 to 7 claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface {600} includes means for a user to input an indication {610} that the user wishes to speak

9. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 2 to 8 claim 2, wherein the teleconferencing server {210} uses a bridge {212} which interfaces with the telephone network {216} that interprets set up and control commands relating to a teleconference.

10. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the teleconference server allows the system to utilise different network interfaces {238, 240, 242}.

11. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 2 to 10 claim 2, wherein the teleconference server {210} includes an interface {232} allowing an instant

messaging client application {202} to set up and control a teleconference.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 11~~ claim 2, wherein the teleconference server {210} includes a telephone profile service {230} for retrieving and storing telephone profiles, and a teleconference profile service {234} for managing teleconference profiles including policy information, pin numbers and port allowances.

13. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein one of the instant messaging client applications {202, 207, 208, 209} is a moderator of the teleconference and has a graphical user interface {400, 600} including control input means {605, 606, 607, 603, 604} for controlling the teleconference.

14. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 13~~ claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface {400} includes means for providing a telephone number at

~~{501, 512}~~ which a participant can be connected for the teleconference.

15. (Currently Amended) A method in which a plurality of users each with an instant messaging client application ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ communicate in real time by instant messages via a computer network ~~(206)~~ and can be simultaneously connected by an n-way teleconference via a telephone network ~~(216)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the method includes: a plurality of instant messaging applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ communicating by instant messages via an instant messaging server ~~(204)~~ on a computer network ~~(206)~~; and establishing n-way telephone connections via a telephone network ~~(216)~~ using a teleconferencing server ~~(210)~~ on the computer network ~~(206)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 ~~or~~ ~~claim 16~~, wherein a user of an instant messaging client application ~~(202)~~ sets up and controls a teleconference by

instant messaging communication with a teleconference server {210}.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the user initiating the teleconference sends an instant message in the form of an invitation {510} to proposed participants of the teleconference.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 18~~ claim 15, wherein non-users of instant messaging applications can also participate in the n-way teleconference by dialling in themselves or being dialled in {612} by another participant.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 16 to 19~~ claim 16, wherein the teleconference server {210} notifies the instant messaging server {204} of the status of telephone connections.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 15 to 20~~ claim 15, wherein the method includes
providing graphical user interfaces {400, 600} for the
instant messaging client applications {202, 207, 208, 209}
including displaying in real time details of participants of
an n-way teleconference and the status of telephone
connections of the participants.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21,
wherein the method includes activating an indication {608}
in the graphical user interface {600} of a participant who
is talking at a given time in the teleconference, in
response to a notification sent from the teleconference
server {210}.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 ~~or~~
~~claim 22~~, wherein the method includes a user inputting a
telephone number {501, 512} in the graphical user interface
at which they can be contacted for a proposed
teleconference.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable program code means for performing the steps of: providing an instant messaging client application {202} for communicating with other instant messaging client applications {207, 208, 209} by instant messages delivered via an instant messaging server {204} on a computer network {206}; providing an extension to the instant messaging client application {202} for enabling teleconferencing using a teleconferencing server {210} on the computer network {206} enabling n-way telephone connections via the telephone network {216}.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable program code means for performing the steps of: providing a plurality of instant messaging applications {202, 207, 208, 209} communicating by instant messages via an instant messaging server {204} on a computer network {206}; and establishing n-way telephone connections via a

telephone network {216} using a teleconferencing server {210} on the computer network {206}.